



WAYLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1937

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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To the Chairman and Members of the District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1937.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

The Medical Officer of Health (part time Officer) and two Sanitary Inspectors (whole time Officers) and contribution is made under the Public Health Acts to their salaries. The Senior Sanitary Inspector acts as Building Surveyor to the Council; holds the Certificates of The Royal Sanitary Institute for Sanitary Inspector and Meat and other Foods Inspector, is a Member of the Institute of Municipal and County Engineers, and a Registered Architect. The additional Sanitary Inspector holds the Certificate of The Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Joint Examination Board.

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in Acres)	...	...	...	106,881
Estimated Population 1937	...	...	...	16,150
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	5,074
Rateable value	...	...	...	£42,307
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£192

There are 35 Parishes in the District and 3 Market Towns, Attleborough, Watton and East Harling. The chief industry is Agriculture; at Attleborough there is a Cyder Factory employing about 300 persons.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.	TOTAL.	M.	F.	BIRTH RATE per 1000 of the estimated resident population
Live Births } Legitimate	240	133	107	16'22
Live Births } Illegitimate	9	5	4	
Still Births	13	8	5	Rate per 1000 total (live & still) births 49.60
DEATHS.	TOTAL.	M.	F.	DEATH RATE per 1000 of the estimated resident population
	226	130	96	13'99

Deaths from puerperal causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1000 total (live & still) births
No. 29. Puerperal sepsis	Nil	Nil
No. 30. Other puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All Infants	per 1000 live births	...	...	52'20
Legitimate Infants	„ legitimate live births	...	...	50'00
Illegitimate Infants	„ illegitimate live births	...	...	111'00
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	28
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	1
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	Nil

SECTION B. **General Provision of Health Services in the Area.**

- I (a) **LABORATORY FACILITIES.** Arrangements are made for any chemical work, analysis, etc., to be carried out at the County Laboratory, Norwich. An arrangement has been made by the County Council with the Public Analyst, Mr. W. Lincoln Sutton, for the examination of all samples of drinking water.
- I (b) **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**
- (a) For infectious cases. The Isolation Hospital Ambulance of the Forehoe and Henstead Rural District Council is available for use in this District for the removal of cases of Infectious Diseases at a fixed scale of charge.
- (b) For non-infectious and accident cases, an Ambulance stationed at Attleborough is available.
- I (c) **NURSING IN THE HOME.** Nature of arrangement in the area.
- (a) General. No nursing is provided by the County Council or by the Local Authority. There are seven District Nurses employed who work in about twenty parishes.
- (b) Infectious Diseases. There is no provision made.
- I (d) **CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.** These are administered by the County Council.
- I (e) **HOSPITALS.**
- (a) Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. Accommodation for patients suffering from these diseases is available at the Forehoe and Henstead Isolation Hospital at Wicklewood, this Council paying a fixed charge per day for treatment.
- (b) Smallpox. During 1928 a wooden building with accommodation for four beds was erected in Old Buckenham in an isolated spot in case of an outbreak of Smallpox.

SECTION C. **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

- I (i) **WATER.** There are no public water supplies in the District. The scheme for the serving of the Parishes of Attleborough, Old Buckenham, New Buckenham, Banham, North Lopham, South Lopham, Garboldisham, Blo' Norton and Harling with a piped supply of water, progressed further during the year. A site at Bury's Hall, Old Buckenham was purchased and the work of sinking the boreholes was commenced later in the year.

WATTON. The scheme for supplying the Parish of Watton and the new Aerodrome at Carbrooke with water was revised, and an Inquiry was held at Watton by an Inspector of the Ministry of Health. A site for the water works was acquired adjoining the Aerodrome, and, towards the end of the year, the Council advertised for Tenders for the sinking of the boreholes.

CROXTON. During the year considerable progress was made in the scheme of a piped supply for this Parish, the works being practically completed at the end of the year. The borehole was sunk to a depth of 200 feet, water rising to 118 feet 6 inches below the ground surface level. This water was stated by the analyst to be of exceptional organic purity and to be of excellent quality for drinking and domestic purposes.

- I (ii) **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

ATTLEBOROUGH. The scheme for sewerage a part of Attleborough Town was sanctioned by the Minister of Health and a site for the Disposal Works was purchased. The position of the works at the end of the year was as follows:— 1584 yards of the main outfall sewer laid. All deep tanks at the Disposal Works excavated and concreted to near the ground level. Overflow channels, filter and sludge beds nearly completed.

WATTON. During the dry period pumping of the effluent from the sewage tanks on to adjoining land was again resorted to, thus removing any danger of a nuisance arising from the river.

III (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. Where insanitary privies are found, these are converted into the pail system. There are about 2326 earth closets and 331 water closets in the District.

III (ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.
 ATTLEBOROUGH. The scheme for the weekly removal of house refuse and excreta has continued successfully throughout the year. All the refuse is disposed of by the contractor by ploughing into his agricultural land.

WATTON. No change has been made in the arrangements for the removal of house refuse and excreta. The house refuse is disposed of by a method of controlled tipping.

III (iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Complaints received	...	...	...	24
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	1317
„ Preliminary Notices	...	...	...	45
„ Statutory Notices	...	...	...	87
„ Houses Repaired	...	...	...	21
„ Inspections of Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	102
„ „ Bakehouses	...	...	...	11
„ „ Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	97
„ „ Cowsheds	...	...	...	199
„ „ Workshops	...	...	...	61
Nuisances Abated :				
Pails substituted for vaults	...	...	...	6
Accumulation of refuse	...	...	...	3
Drains repaired or provided	...	...	...	56
W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	6
Other nuisances and defects	...	...	...	29
Slaughterhouse nuisances	...	...	...	1
Cowsheds limewashed and other nuisances remedied	...	...	...	5
New floors to Cowsheds	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses limewashed	...	...	...	3
Samples of water taken	...	...	...	9
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	60
Schools disinfected	...	...	...	1

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

There are eighty-three premises on the Factory and Workshops Register as follows :

FACORIES—	Cyder Making	...	...	...	2
	Printing Works	...	...	...	2
	Motor Works	...	...	...	5
	Other Factories	...	...	...	3
WORKSHOPS—	Bakehouses	...	...	...	27
	Builders	...	...	...	13
	Blacksmiths	...	...	...	14
	Tailors	...	...	...	2
	Harness making	...	...	...	3
	Other Workshops	...	...	...	11

IV. SCHOOLS. There are thirty-five Elementary Schools in the District. The sanitary conditions and water supply are generally quite satisfactory.

SECTION D. Housing.

STATISTICS. Number of new Houses erected during the year :

(a)	Total (numbers given separately under (b))	...	26
(b)	(i) By Local Authority ...	...	12
	(ii) By other Local Authorities	...	2
	(iii) By other Persons	...	12

I. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(i)	(a)	Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	242
	(b)	Number of Inspections made	...	...	...	...	321
(ii)	(a)	Number of Dwelling Houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	101
	(b)	Number of Inspections made	...	...	...	...	186
(iii)		Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	31
(iv)		Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	21

II. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

		Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered reasonably fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	9
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III. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	1
(2)	Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :						
	(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	1

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :						
	(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

C. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made, including Houses in Clearance Areas	...	...	...	...	28
(2)	Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders					11
	Number of Dwelling Houses demolished voluntarily	...	...	...	...	Nil
	Number of Dwelling Houses undertakings accepted by the Council	...	...	...	...	3

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

		...	...	...	...	Nil
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IV. HOUSING ACT, 1936. OVERCROWDING :

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	72
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	75
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	524
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	7
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	13
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	71

Clearance Areas.

During the year Clearance Orders were made as stated below and submitted to the Minister of Health, who confirmed same :

	Area	No. of Houses in area	No. of Persons to be displaced
Harling, School Lane	Clearance Area J	4	12
Hockham, Shropham Road	„ „ K	4	10
New Buckenham, The Common	„ „ L	4	15
		—	—
		12	37

Housing (Rural Workers' Act) 1926.

Two applications were received for assistance under this Act during the year, and in both cases grants were made by the Council.

SECTION E. **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

(A). MILK SUPPLY. There are 232 Registered Cow-keepers, 45 Wholsale Producers of Milk, 94 Cow-keepers and Retailers of Milk, 93 Cow-kcepers and Dairymen. In addition, 9 Retailers of Milk who purchase their supplies.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936. The District Council acted as Agents for the County Council in carrying out certain provisions under this Order.

There are 35 Producers in this area liccned to produce milk as Accredited, and one Producer was granted a licence to sell Milk as Accredited.

Two Dealer's Supplementary Licences were issued by the District Council.

(B). MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. There are 27 Slaughter-houses in the District, 15 of which are registered and 12 licenced. 19 Butchers' shops have proper refrigerators for storing Meat during hot weather.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	...	...	Not known		
Number inspected	67	—	15	66	129
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	2	—	1	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	—	—	1	3
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	7.46	—	6.6	1.5	3.87
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	2
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.5	—	—	—	3.1

(C) ADULTERATION, ETC. The County Council administers the Sale of Foods and Drugs Act.

SECTION F. **Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.**

II. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

	Total Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	41	5	—
Diphtheria	31	12	2
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	4	—
Pneumonia	18	—	6
Erysipelas	6	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—

There have been two epidemics during the past year in the area. A rather severe one of Diphtheria involving 32 cases, with two deaths just at its beginning. This epidemic was traced to five carriers in the School who were isolated, and of whom three are free from infection, but two are isolated at home and have still positive swabs after nearly nine months. The germs in their throats have been cultured and are stated to be relatively harmless, but of course they cannot resume School at present.

Immunisation was conducted at the Watton Council School by the local practitioners at this Council's expense, and all parents had the opportunity of having their children done. The "one shot" method was adopted, after consultation with the County Medical Officer of Health. 182 children were immunised. Practitioners were canvassed in other parts of the Wayland District with regard to their charges for immunisation at a flat rate, but as it was arranged that a Committee was going to investigate and stabilize charges over the County, the matter is for the moment in abeyance.

The Scarlet Fever epidemic was neither large nor severe, and was in the Ellingham, Rockland and Attleborough parishes. There were two peeling cases from Rockland School discovered, which may have been the source of the epidemic.

4. (c) **Tuberculosis.**

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

Age periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5	2	—	2	3	—	1	—	—
15	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
25	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45	—	3	—	—	1*	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total	8	9	3	3	2	4	—	—

*Notified after Death.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Extract from Report relating to administration of Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, forwarded to Secretary of State, Home Office.

1 **Inspections**

Premises			Inspections			Notices		
Factories	...	...	...	12	...	...	—	...
Workshops and Workplaces			...	61	...	...	1	...

2 **Defects found**

			Found			Remedied		
Want of Cleanliness	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Other nuisances	...	...	...	—	...	...	—	...

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

F. R. WILSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

East Harling,
27th June, 1938

